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SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [EUN](#) [SR](#) [KV](#) [SW](#)  
SUBJECT: SWEDISH MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR ON IRAN, BALKANS,  
SYRIA, AND EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Classified By: Ambassador Matthew Barzun, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) Over lunch with the Ambassador February 24, MFA Political  
Director Bjorn Lyrvall offered Swedish views on key topics:

--On EU internal politics, he complained that Brussels was  
turned inward as major players scurried around trying to line  
up good jobs. Sweden is pushing for competence to be a  
factor in hiring for the new External Action Service rather  
than just proportional representation of Member States,  
hoping in that way it will get more than the 10-15 slots that  
would otherwise be likely. Sweden is also pushing its PSC  
Ambassador, Olof Skoog, for the new, post-Lisbon, PSC  
Chairmanship. Baroness Ashton's staff are grateful that the  
Swedes are quietly passing them papers on a full range of  
topics.

--On Iran, Lyrvall stated that "our people" are looking at  
the possibility of "human rights-based sanctions" to  
complement proliferation-based sanctions, although it was  
still unclear whether a legal basis for such could be found.  
He reiterated well-known European concerns that absent a UN  
Security Council resolution, any actions the EU might take to  
target "the transportation or insurance sectors, for example"  
would be quickly undercut by China.

--On Serbia, Stockholm was concerned about a series of  
unhelpful comments coming out of Belgrade, including by  
President Tadic and Patriarch Irinej. Such comments could  
not be formally linked to Serbia's EU accession process, but  
Sweden wanted Serbian leaders to be aware that their "actual  
policies" would be judged by the comments Serbian leaders  
made in advance of Serbia's EU application review, scheduled  
for June. Lyrvall added that he expected the "Dutch  
position" would be upheld and that the next report of ICTY  
Chief Prosecutor Brammertz would have to be "at least as  
positive as last time" if progress on Serbia's accession were  
to continue.

--Turning to Kosovo, Lyrvall said Sweden expected the ICJ  
advisory opinion would be "gray," neither finding Kosovo's  
declaration of independence illegal nor sanctioning the move.  
Sweden worries that such a ruling will only "complicate"  
matters.

--On the EU-Syria Association Agreement, Lyrvall stated that  
the draft text included human rights conditions demanded by  
the Dutch. However, in the six months since Damascus was  
presented with the draft text, there had been no movement.  
Rather, the Syrians say they are still reviewing the  
agreement, quietly pointing out that they were "not the  
demandeur" in the situation.

--Turning to the Eastern Partnership, Lyrvall said that when  
the project was first launched, Moscow had offered no  
objection. By last spring and summer however, the Russians  
had reached out to Spain "and other friends" saying they  
needed to be more involved, but by late autumn Moscow had  
again become silent on the matter. Although the EU had  
offered Russia a chance to participate in one Partnership

activity in which Georgia had no interest, the Georgians immediately blocked Russian participation when they became aware of the possibility.

BARZUN